

To:

02/12/2016

Amy Leuders, Director
Bureau of Land Management Fax: (505) 954-2010
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115

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Julie Ann Serrano, Lead Land Law Examiner
Bureau of Land Management Fax: (505) 954-2010
New Mexico State Office
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-0115

From:

James W. Mitchell
Home Owner

Address:
3111 Misty Oak Drive
Highland Village, TX 75077
(214) 707-5922

Re: Proposed Auction by the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") of Parcel NM-201604-043,
being 258.90 Acres Located in Denton County, Texas (Lewisville Lake)

Dear Ms. Leuders and Ms. Serrano:

I protest the sale of mineral leases of the 258.90 acre tract of land that is adjacent to Lewisville Lake which involves the cities of Hickory Creek, Highland Village, Corinth, Little Elm, and other surrounding areas. I am writing this letter to strongly request that this parcel of land be withdrawn from the auction. There is a probability of serious to disastrous short and long term effects for the local homeowners, the Lake Lewisville water supply, and the Lake Lewisville dam.

We, as citizens of Denton County in the Lake Lewisville area, have never been officially and legally notified of this fracking activity by any means. No publications in local newsletters nor news reports. We only heard about this proposed auction from a flyer that was posted by a concerned citizen on a light pole in our neighborhood. It was shocking to hear of this proposal, knowing how many structural and stability problems the Army Corps of Engineers have experienced and have identified already with the Lake Lewisville dam's decaying structures.

Lake Lewisville is our primary source of potable drinking water. Fracking is a known source of contamination both from release of toxic chemicals and of dangerous gases. This could easily result in serious health problems and diseases for the thousands of residents who call Lake Lewisville their home. The fossil fuels beneath our drinking water supply should be entirely off limits due to public safety concerns. Fracking beneath our lake can poison our potable drinking water with cancerous petroleum based toxic fluids and gases. We have to take conservative measures to preserve this natural resource.

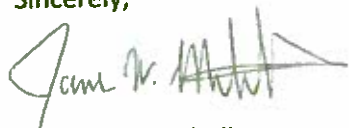
There is a natural underwater spring that runs through many of the properties along the southern shore of the lake. The possible contamination of this additional water supply and the ecological and financial impacts that this could create for the community must certainly be a consideration prior to beginning any subterranean activity.

It is also a known fact that Lewisville Lake is one of the nation's most dangerous dams due to the many hundreds of thousands living in its flood plain. The dam already has serious problems with underground seepage and internal erosion. There have been many slides on the face of the dam that are currently in need of repair. Fracking beneath the lake could cause immediate or later seismic activity and damage the dam structure even further. There have been publications about the risk of a potential breach in the Lewisville Dam. This catastrophic breach would cause billions of dollars of personal property and home damage and could kill up to 250,000 people who live downstream beneath the dam.

Adjacent cities, such as Irving, TX have already suffered from frequent earthquakes caused from fracking activity. Many of the residents who own homes in this area have foundation problems, cracking in their interior and exterior walls, along with unstable soil conditions. From studies done, such as the SMU testing performed in 2015, it was proven that the fracking activity was a contributing cause of the frequency of the earthquakes in that area. It is unnerving to live with frequent earthquake activity, even if they are under a 4.0 magnitude. We do not want our homes to be damaged structurally or our foundations compromised in this lakeside area where we reside. Future costly foundation repairs could result since we live in hillside neighborhoods whose homes have several cement piers to stabilize our foundations. Another important point to consider is the devaluation of our homes due to seismic activity, and the possibility of not being able to sell the properties.

As the Bureau of Land Management and a U.S. government agency, you are obligated and mandated to protect the interests of U.S. citizens and voters. We need time for more review and voter input before allowing this activity. This serious issue has not been locally approved by the citizens who live here, our individual city officials, and governing bodies. Your motive should not be primarily to protect the profits of energy companies, but the public interest, that of citizens and taxpayers. As a resident I feel that this proposal has been perpetrated in secrecy and is contrary to the public interest of local citizens. It is a true case of inappropriate exploitation of public land without allowing local citizens constructive comment and communications beforehand. It is imperative that the public and local citizens be fully included in any future planning or approvals of this antisocial activity being pursued against the interest of U.S. citizens and local homeowners. Please let us know when we can meet with you to hear our concerns and address the issues that affect us as local homeowners and residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James W. Mitchell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

James W. Mitchell